

## CRIMES RELATING TO COINS.

MARCH 11, 1880.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. VANCE, from the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, submitted the following

### REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5064.]

*The Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures have had under consideration the bill (H. R. 4308) to punish certain crimes relating to the coins of the United States, and for other purposes, and beg leave to submit the following report and the accompanying bill:*

Complaints have been made to the committee by various private parties, and also valuable suggestions and information have been obtained from the Solicitor of the Treasury, in regard to numerous efforts at defacing, mutilating, falsifying, and by other devices, by which the gold and silver coins of the United States are diminished and impaired.

Then, again, there are certain parties who are in the habit of making what is known as "toy money," with the stamp and devices of the United States thereon, which has the effect to cheat and deceive the public. The Solicitor-General of the Treasury, in speaking of the alarming increase of these irregularities, uses the following language, to which the committee call attention:

I think it very important that this bill should be passed into a law. Counterfeiting is running riot all over the country. Their ingenuity in trying to evade the law exceeds anything imaginable. There never was as much counterfeiting going on as there is now.

The fifth section of the bill is intended to meet a new mode of counterfeiting, which the Solicitor refers to in these words:

The second paragraph is intended to meet a new method of counterfeiting, which the Chief of the Secret-Service Division has just brought to my notice. It seems that they cut off from one end of a note a narrow strip (not large enough, however, to prevent the note thus mutilated from passing), then from another note of the same denomination a strip a little wider, and so on, thus mutilating fifteen notes, and thus make sixteen out of the fifteen, saving \$100 in \$1,600 if they do it with \$1 notes. I am told that these notes, thus patched, have been taken by several banks, and at last detected and thrown out at the Treasury here. The object of this last paragraph is to meet this evil.

Every one must acknowledge the importance of protecting the coins and circulating notes of the United States as money from defacement or counterfeiting. The entire people of our country are interested deeply in so protecting our currency by law as that they may have confidence in its genuineness when they receive it. In many countries the tampering with, or counterfeiting of, the coins thereof has been punishable with death.

The committee recommend the passage of the accompanying bill as a substitute for bill H. R. No. 4308.

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